

# Transportation Products FAQ

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## **Q. What is the URL for information on the transportation products and services for the National Map?**

Information on the data product is available at <http://nationalmap.gov/transport.html>

## **Q. How can I submit a question or report issues regarding National Map transportation products and services?**

Submit questions via the email/form <http://viewer.nationalmap.gov/help>

## **Q. What sources were used to create National Map transportation products?**

Since the USGS is not the lead Federal agency for geospatial transportation data development, it primarily relies on data from external sources to support its requirement for transportation data as a core data in *The National Map*. The USGS transportation dataset consists of roads, railroads and airport runways built from a variety of data sources. The roads are currently either from Census' TIGER/Line Shapefile source content with some updates of major roads by the USGS or from a commercial source (i.e., Tele Atlas), with some US Forest Service road data over National Forests. The railroads are sourced directly from Oak Ridge National Labs. The airport runways are derived from the Federal Aviation Administration location points, with polygon geometry and location updates provided by the USGS.

## **Q. Where can I find source contact information for transportation data?**

Census (roads): <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/index.html>

Oak Ridge National Labs (railroads): <http://cta.ornl.gov/transnet>

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (airport runways):  
[http://www.bts.gov/publications/national\\_transportation\\_atlas\\_database/2009/](http://www.bts.gov/publications/national_transportation_atlas_database/2009/)

## **Q. Where can I find information on National Map transportation product services?**

See <http://nationalmap.gov/transport.html> or the transportation services at <http://services.nationalmap.gov>

## **Q. How often are the National Map transportation products and services updated?**

The updates are variable. Since the USGS obtains most of this data from external sources, the frequency of updates depends on the release schedule of the source products. Typically these updates range from every few weeks (FAA) to an annual update cycle (Census). Once the updates are made, the web map services are targeted to be updated on a monthly cycle, but updates are immediately available for download.

## **Q. How can I determine the currentness for the transportation products and services?**

Since transportation features are collected from a variety of sources, the currentness of the data may vary by type of feature and by area of coverage. To provide an indication of the data currentness, each feature has a load date attribute to indicate when the feature was loaded to the National Map. In addition, the time period when the feature was originally collected or updated may be indicated in the source metadata. The detailed source metadata information is currently only available in the data download content. Please see <http://nationalmap.gov/transport.html> for more information on the organization of the metadata in the download datasets.

The product services encompass tile caches, dynamic map services, and data download. A base map release date is provided in the viewer help menu, under the About tab. This date reflects the last release of the nationwide tile cache. The dynamic map services currently match or slightly precede this release date. The download data which is delivered directly from the publication database, may be up to one month more current than the basemap release date. The publication date of the download data is included in the version information of the processing parameters metadata table included with the data download.

## **Q. What are the technical limitations of the transportation products (i.e. Intended uses and known limitations; intended scales and resolutions etc)?**

The transportation data layers have generally been produced to be suitable for visualization at 1:24,000-scale representations. The current exception to this case is the railroads data which is primarily derived from a 1:100,000-scale source dataset. The data is designed to represent core geospatial content including location, geometry, classification, name, and address information, as appropriate. Additional detail content may be available depending on the content source and the needs of the user community. While the database models are designed to support network navigation and geocoding, the roads and railroads data available in the public domain at a national coverage are not generally suitable for this purpose at this time.

## **Q. Where can I get the metadata for transportation products and services?**

Service metadata is available on the viewer site by right clicking the base layer in the contents. In addition, product-level metadata is included with each data download along with feature specific metadata describing the source citations and processes applied to each individual feature or collections of features.

## **Q. What are the available formats for the transportation download product ?**

Data is currently available in ESRI Geodatabase formats (9.1 personal geodatabase, 9.2 personal geodatabase, 9.2 file geodatabase). Shapefile is expected in 2010, and within 2011, many more formats are expected to be made available.

## **Q. How do I download transportation data products?**

See <http://viewer.nationalmap.gov/help/> and review the Quick Start Download Guide

## **Q. Who has governance over transportation data development for the Federal government?**

The lead agency for the Federal government in overseeing the development and coordination of transportation data is the US Department of Transportation (see [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/circulars/a016/a016\\_rev.html#2](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/circulars/a016/a016_rev.html#2)).